

As fundamental as the air we breathe.
Essential to understanding our
humanity and our world. The arts
and culture are not a frill. They define
our city.



Celebrating **2017**, anticipating **2018**



City of Chicago
Mayor Rahm Emanuel

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF
DCASE
CULTURAL AFFAIRS & SPECIAL EVENTS

Supporting art and the economy.

With a small-but-mighty staff of **57** people, DCASE accomplishes big things — including international publicity, a social media reach of **500,000** people and **25%** of the visitor traffic to cityofchicago.org.

Our large-scale festivals and events have a significant economic impact for the City of Chicago and are major drivers for tourism. By the end of 2018, DCASE will have presented more than **2,000** programs, services and events for more than **25 million** Chicagoland residents and visitors.

But we couldn't do it without you. In fact, we wouldn't do it without you. Chicago's museums, music scene, theatres, film industry and the entire arts sector are thriving. DCASE seeks to collaborate, convene, champion and showcase Chicago's great arts institutions, community organizations, artists and creatives — and to use our venues, festivals and programs as a platform to support the cultural landscape.

*“Arts and culture define
the soul of a city.”*



Mayor Rahm Emanuel



Art on theMART, Chicago Riverwalk

*“Chicago is an arts powerhouse and
a global cultural destination.”*



Commissioner Mark Kelly

Jay Pritzker Pavilion, Millennium Park Campus





Chicago Cultural Center

2017

During 2017, **the Year of Public Art** captured the city's imagination and unleashed new forces for public art. Mayor Emanuel and DCASE launched a 50x50 Neighborhood Arts Project, revealed Chicago's first Public Art Plan, installed new public artworks on the Chicago Riverwalk and at the Chicago Cultural Center, and much more. These efforts represented a **\$4 million** investment in **artist-led community projects** managed by DCASE, the Chicago Park District, the Chicago Transit Authority and others.

Millennium Park, Chicago's town square, has become the **number one** attraction in the Midwest and anchors our urban cultural campus that includes the Chicago Cultural Center, Maggie Daley Park and the Art Institute of Chicago. The nearby Chicago Riverwalk, buzzing with free cultural events, has also become a hot destination for residents and visitors alike.

With a renewed focus on inclusive programs that reflect the rich diversity of Chicago, we've re-energized Maxwell Street Market, kick-started the funding for the very first Chicago International Latino Theater Festival, brought Café Tacvba to Taste of Chicago and welcomed Chicago's Latino community to Millennium Park for performances by Chicago Mariachi Festival and the Ballet Folklórico of Guadalajara, among others.

Maxwell Street Market



1

massive mural by Kerry James Marshall at the Chicago Cultural Center



70

markets in wards citywide through our Chicago City Markets program



1,200+

park events and programs in 77 communities via Night Out in the Parks with the Chicago Park District



\$1.7

million in cultural grants to 300+ nonprofit organizations and local artists



140

architects and artists from 20+ countries participated in the 2nd Chicago Architecture Biennial

50

wards commissioned public art by local artists



1.6

million visitors (a new record) to the 37th Taste of Chicago, our city's premier food, music and arts festival



500,000

Chicago Blues Festival attendees, a major increase, after we moved it to Millennium Park and expanded the programming



700+

annual neighborhood festivals and sporting events

9

TV series and studio features filmed in Chicago





Photo by Phil Dembinski, Marwen teaching artist

2018

Mayor Emanuel and DCASE have designated 2018 **the Year of Creative Youth** with a new Creative Youth Festival across the Millennium Park Campus on September 22, performance opportunities for teens, cultural grants for youth arts organizations and much more. This initiative represents a **\$2 million** investment by the City of Chicago and will spotlight Chicago's creative youth, as well as the incredible organizations and educators inspiring the next generation through the arts. We'll work alongside the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Public Library, the Chicago Park District and others. Chicago's youth will be involved at every step. Lead sponsor of the Year of Creative Youth is Allstate Insurance Company.





Keith Haring: The Chicago Mural, Chicago Cultural Center

Why the arts matter

At DCASE, we believe that art and creativity are as fundamental as the air we breathe. Creativity is essential in helping us understand our humanity and our world. The arts and culture are not an optional frill in life. They define the character of great cities, states and civilizations. That’s true for our great city, too. Chicago is the birthplace of storefront theatre, modern architecture, footwork, improv, gospel music, house music, the urban blues, poetry slams and more. Our 2018 plan includes many facets of the arts, so more Chicagoans and visitors can appreciate all the reasons why Chicago continues to be a global cultural destination.

More public art

DCASE will collaborate with the Merchandise Mart on “Art on theMART,” the largest permanent lighting installation in the world, launching this fall at the Chicago Riverwalk. We’ll also continue our commitment to public art in the neighborhoods through our Percent for Art program.

Dancing fun for everyone

The Chicago SummerDance series will expand to feature house, steppin’, footwork and more at Grant Park, at festivals and in additional neighborhoods.

Celebrating Chicago’s music legacy

Millennium Park will host the House, Gospel Music and Blues festivals, as well as the Jazz Festival highlighting our black music legacy and featuring an expanded footprint to bring more music lovers to Chicago’s neighborhoods.

A richer Taste experience

The Taste of Chicago will feature new entertainment areas and exciting food and beverage, music and arts experiences.

Long-standing favorites

DCASE will celebrate the milestone anniversaries of the Kids and Kites Festival (20th), World Music Festival (20th), Blues Festival (35th), Jazz Festival (40th), Air and Water Show (60th), and Christmas Tree (105th).

Millennium Park Campus enhancements

Improvements and programming will increase connectivity between Millennium Park and the Chicago Cultural Center — including a new Welcome Center and Learning Lab, a Keith Haring summer exhibit at the Chicago Cultural Center and a showcase for local film festivals at Millennium Park.

Elevating our theaters

We are collaborating with Choose Chicago, League of Chicago Theatres, Broadway In Chicago, World Business Chicago and others to develop a new brand for Chicago theatre.

Collaborating for community

We will strengthen the cultural landscape by showcasing Chicago’s vibrant arts and creative community. Many free activities are planned across the city — including museum free days and park district and library events. The word will be spread via social media, email marketing and our “Free, Free, Free!” website.

We’ll also advocate for “Art Design Chicago,” the Terra Foundation’s ambitious citywide 2018 initiative with over 25 exhibitions and hundreds of public programs.

Photo by Phil Dembinski, Marwen teaching artist










Chicago Riverwalk

Our generous sponsors and donors are listed in the online version of this report.

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Chicago Gospel Music Festival

Design, concept and creative direction: Simple Truth